

76-0847

23 MAR 1976

DD/S&T-1381-76

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Administration  
FROM: Associate Deputy Director for Science and  
Technology  
SUBJECT: Parapsychology Research  
REFERENCE: Memorandum from A/DDA to ADD/S&T dated  
23 February 1976, Subject: SRI Report  
on Perceptual Augmentation

*John -*

1. Because you have expressed an interest, as a Directorate, in the subject of parapsychology, I would like to outline our current research plans in this area.

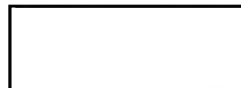
2. As you may know, we elected not to continue the SRI research project because of its substantial cost and because of the generally negative findings in the physiological portion of the research. For example, a promising earlier correlation between brain wave patterns and the on-off status of a hidden light inside a screen room was not substantiated by the most recent study. The operationally oriented portion of the SRI work did yield some very interesting findings. Unfortunately, these were open to question because of procedural shortcomings, such as the lack of controls, lack of predetermined criteria for "hits," failure to follow accepted double blind methodology, and the involvement of experimental team members themselves as subjects.

3. We do agree that the field requires close observation, however, until we can identify promising and potentially useful research alternatives. We have programmed a significant survey project for FY-77 and a follow-on for FY-78. The FY-77 work will include an in-depth review of the recent literature, together with visits to laboratories doing significant research in the field. The contractor will be a reputable scientist who holds neither a position of flat rejection nor an outright espousal of paranormal phenomena

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SUBJECT: Parapsychology Research

generally. At the same time we will attempt to determine internal criteria as to what types and levels of paranormal performance would be considered important to the Agency if they could be demonstrated.



Sayre Stevens

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*(Orig- D/MS  
K- subj.*

DDA Registry  
File Medical

DDA 76-0847

23 FEB 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for  
Science and Technology  
[E] JOHN N. McMAHON  
FROM : John N. McMahon, Associate Deputy  
Director for Administration  
SUBJECT : SRI Report on Perceptual Augmentation

1. Because of my early interest stemming from OTS days of keeping a finger in parapsychology, [ ] dropped me a copy of the SRI report which in turn I read and then forwarded to [ ] for his comments.

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2. Unfortunately, this subject brings out the best of charlatans, however, there is a serious side to it and one that we, as an intelligence agency, must not let slip by unnoticed. I call to your attention OMS's continued interest in parapsychology and the fact that we, as a Directorate, have a continuing interest and requirement for research in this area. It does seem appropriate that the Agency keep a continuing, albeit modest, effort in this area.

Att:

Memo dtd 20 Feb 76 to  
ADDA fr DD/MS, same subj: (DDA 76-0823)

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Adse w/att  
1 - DD/MS w/att + background (DDA 76-0702 w/SRI report)  
1 - DDA Subject w/cy of att + bkgd w/o report  
1 - DDA Chrono  
1 - JNM Chrono

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DDA 76-0702: MFR dtd 4 Feb 76 fr [ ] OTS/CB, subj:  
Stanford Research Institute (SRI) Investigation into Parapsychology

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BD/A Registry  
76/0823

20 FEB 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Administration  
SUBJECT : SRI Report on Perceptual Augmentation

1. I read SRI's report with great interest and found some of the narrative and observations to be intriguing. Unfortunately, they were unable to find any physiological measurable basis for their observations, a problem which has plagued research in this area for many years. At least to this reader I thought the report suffered unnecessarily from statistical overkill mixed with observational data which I found difficult to separate. It would have been helpful to know what the initial protocol was and to have further clarification of the control group (learner/control?) and the reasons for grouping some of the subjects for statistical reasons. Personally, I cannot endorse the statement that this report "establishes overwhelming scientific evidence for the existence of human perceptual capabilities which are as yet unexplained."

2. Putting aside any shortcomings in the report or my interpretation of it, I believe that the Agency should continue to monitor this area which I refer to as unusual sensory perception with particular emphasis on measurements of energy transfer which I believe must exist if this phenomenon is to be of any practical value to the Agency. The Office of Medical Services has indicated its interest in parapsychology to the Office of Research and Development in a formal requirement and I hope that senior officials of this Agency will continue to support modest efforts in this area of great potential even though the field enjoys little support by scientists in general.

signed

  
Deputy Director of Medical Services

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